796 795 who therefore disapprove of the whole affair, but it is rare that there is any trouble between the two sects, both of them having adopted the principle of live and let live.

796 In the afternoon of the 10th Muharram the more energetic members of the procession go out into the villages where similar smaller processions take place and which are often made more colourful by the use of additional model tombs which are no longer seen in Manama. In the evening, as in every evening of the first ten days of the month, those who took part in the processions are feasted in the martams, and for three more days the orators continue to preach to the people, for it was for three days that Hussein lay on the field of Kerbela. But on the 13th of the month the period of mourning ends, the "props" are returned to the various martams, the collecting boxes are again displayed in the Shiite shops, out of which some of the expenses of Ashura are paid, and the Mullas return home to Iraq.

796 609 656 Europeans are permitted to witness the procession on the 9th and 10th days of Muharram, but it is illegal to photograph any part of the procession and the State Police remove the cameras or movie-cameras and expose the film of those who break this law. In addition, unwary photographers have often been roughly handled by members of the Shiite faith, who feel that a sacred procession is not a suitable subject for casual snap-shots. It is therefore much more tactful to dispense with artificial means and to rely on one's memory for recording what is an unique occasion, for the procession has been banned in Iraq and Persia and so Bahrain is now one of the very few places where it can be seen.

CHAPTER X

BAHRAIN'S STAMPS

205 THE generally accepted date for the establishment of the first post office in Bahrain, in the town of Manama, is 1884, and as the Indian Government was at that time responsible for political relations with the Ruler of Bahrain, it naturally followed that Indian stamps were used in the Islands. It was not till 1911, however, that a formal agreement granting the British a monopoly of postal services in Bahrain was signed.

In the first instance Indian stamps were used without an overprint—Indian stamps of Queen Victoria and George V post-marked "Bahrain," and it is only possible to trace stamps used in Bahrain by the post-mark. The two most usual post-marks are a circle with bars outside and two circles with the name at the top and the date across the centre. Fortunately the word Bahrain shows up quite well in most of these, provided that there is enough of the post-mark on the stamp if the latter is not on a cover. These issues were usually limited to 3 pies, ½ anna, 1 anna and 2½ anna stamps.

The use of Indian stamps overprinted "Bahrain" dates from the 10th August, 1933, but the first set was replaced in the following year and the S.G. (Stanley Gibbon's Catalogue) No. 9, 4 anna value, is quite hard to obtain and is sometimes confused with the 4 anna No. 19, although the latter does not bear the word "revenue." Following the issue of new Indian stamps in 1937 the set was overprinted for use in Bahrain in 1938; six stamps of this set are pictorial and most attractive, showing the history of the postal service in India. A new Indian issue in 1940 was overprinted for use in Bahrain in 1942 and continued in use until India and Pakistan obtained their independence, whereupon the Bahrain Post Office changed from being part of the Indian postal system to being a branch of the British G.P.O. Following this change British overprinted stamps were issued on the 1st April, 1948. 205 ●

1948 was a prolific year for stamps. On 26th April the Royal Silver Wedding issue was overprinted for use in Bahrain, and on 29th July the stamps commemorating the Olympic Games were issued. 1949 was the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union, and in common with most countries, an issue of four stamps was overprinted for use in Bahrain. 1950 saw the issue of one stamp, a 4 anna value, but in May of the following year five low value stamps in the Universal Postal Union colours were issued, together with new designs of the three high-value stamps of the United Kingdom.

There has never been a postage due stamp in Bahrain, a rubber stamp has served the purpose. Recently an air letter form was issued as a trial and became very popular, so that sales exceeded all expectations. Bahrain stamps are in considerable demand, but owing to the smallness of the internal mail and the popular use of franking machines Bahrain stamps are far from easy to find. The most valuable Bahrain stamp is the 2½ anna Olympic Games issue with a double overprint of which only half a sheet of unused stamps has come to light. The S.G. No. 42, a 1 anna 3 pies value, in good used condition, is also a very hard stamp to obtain and is worth more than the current catalogued price.

Although revenue stamps are not collected by the majority of philatelists, those of Bahrain are of interest by reason of their attractive designs, which are of Bahrain scenes and activities. The 4 anna value shows an old peddler weighing out his goods, the 8 anna value a section of Manama and some sailing boats, the 1 rupee, an Arab with his two means of hunting, the falcon and the salugi; the 5 rupees shows a pile of pearl shells, the 10 rupees a donkey carrying skins of water, the 50 rupees a pair of camels and the 100 rupees, date palms. 651

At the time of writing a new set of revenue stamps were in the process of printing, of the following values: 4 annas, 5 rupees, 10 rupees, 50 rupees and 100 rupees. All bear the head of H.H. The Ruler and in addition the four high values have the Suq al-Khamis Minarets, The Rifaa Palace, the Sitra Pool and a sailing boat as designs.

to buy liquor for their own use. In Awali liquor is sold through the medium of BAPCO, while residents in Manama must apply for a permit to buy liquor from H.B.M.'s Political Agent. 273

It is a serious offence in Bahrain for a Moslem to be found in possession of liquor, or "under the influence" and it is also illegal for non-Moslems in possession of liquor to give or sell it to Moslems.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

There are in Bahrain a number of private and public hospitals, as well as dentists, doctors and chemists. 743

For the benefit of the people of Bahrain the State Department of Health maintains a number of medical institutions in various parts of Bahrain. At the western end of Manama is the Naim Hospital for men and women, containing both public and private wards and equipped to deal with all emergencies. This hospital is used by the foreign community, except those employed by BAPCO, as well as by the people of the country. Also in Manama there are isolation hospitals, a mental hospital, a T.B. Sanatorium and the Office of Public Health. There are also State Hospitals in Muharraq and Hedd and dispensaries in the three towns and various villages. 657

For the use of its employees, both Bahraini and foreign, BAPCO has two hospitals in Awali.

The oldest hospital in Bahrain is that run by the mission of the Dutch Reformed Church of America in Shaikh Isa Road, Manama. This hospital contains both public and private wards. There are also several dentists and doctors practising privately in Manama. [797]

RATES OF POSTAGE 205

	LETTERS	Rs.	As.
INLAND :	Not exceeding 1 oz. or fraction thereof	0	1½
	For each additional oz.	0	1
FOREIGN :			
Seamail :			
	Kuwait, Dubai and Muscat, not exceeding 1 oz. or fraction thereof	0	1½
	For each additional oz.	0	1
	Great Britain and Eire, British Empire and territories under British Mandate, U.S.A. and Egypt, not exceeding 1 oz. or fraction thereof	0	2½
	For each additional oz.	0	1
	All other countries, not exceeding 1 oz. or fraction thereof	0	4
	For each additional oz.	0	2½
Airmail :			
	Europe, per half oz. or fraction thereof	0	6
	Australia, New Zealand, per half oz. or fraction thereof	0	12
	Canada, U.S.A., per half oz. or fraction thereof	1	0
	India, per half oz. or fraction thereof	0	6
	Saudi Arabia, Irak, Cyprus, Dubai, Egypt, Lebanon, Kuwait, Syria and Jordan, per half oz. or part thereof	0	3½

205 For those interested in sending food parcels to friends or relatives in England the following facts may be of interest. Not more than one parcel may be sent at any one time to one consignee in England. The total weight of the food parcel may not exceed 18 pounds, and no more than four pounds of any one commodity can be sent. There are no restrictions at present in force regarding the export of foodstuffs from Bahrain.

There are three post offices in Bahrain, one on Prior Road, Manama, a second on Sea Road, Muharraq and a third at Awali.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

627 The following are public holidays in Bahrain :

Every Friday, this is the Moslem sabbath.

New Years Day.

Eid Ramadan, a three days holiday at the end of the month of fasting, in 1953 this feast will fall on the 13th, 14th and 15th June.

Eid al-Hajj, a three days holiday on the 10th 11th and 12th of the Arabic month of Dhul Hajj at the conclusion of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. In 1953 this feast will fall on the 10th, 11th and 12th August.

Ashura, a two days holiday, but not a feast; these days, the 9th and 10th Muharram are when the Shia mourn the death of Hussein at Kerbela. In 1953 this holiday will take place on the 18th and 19th September.

The Prophet's Birthday, the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. In 1953 this feast will take place on 19th November.

Christmas Day.

The dates of Moslem feast days and holidays are based on the Islamic lunar calendar, and consequently *move back ten days each year and eleven days in leap years*,

CALENDAR

805 The official calendar in Bahrain is the Moslem calendar and as stated above, Moslem holidays are based on it. The Moslem months are as follows :

Muharram	Rajab
Safar	Shaban
Rabia al-Awal	Ramadan
Rabia ath-Thani	Shawal
Jamadi al-Awal	Dhul Qada
Jamadi ath-Thani	Dhul Hajj

The Islamic calendar dates from 622 A.D., the year in which the Hijra took place.

6:Faroughy H-5 (no date)1951 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

205

STAMPS OF BAHREIN

[facing page 47]

804 The Chow is also used as the nominal weight in Bombay by the pearl traders, but the Bombay Chow weighs only one-fourth the Bahrein.

CURRENCY

436 Indian money is the national currency. The rupee, a silver coin about the size of a United States half-dollar, is the basic unit and is worth about thirty cents, its sterling equivalent being ls. 6d. The rupee is divided into 16 *annas* (sing., *anna*).

Other silver coins are:

Half rupee	= 8 annas
Quarter rupee	= 4 annas
Eighth rupee	= 2 annas
Pice	= ¼ anna
½ Pice	= ⅛ anna

Copper coins less than one anna in value are also in circulation. There are 12 pies to an anna, or 192 pies to a rupee.

Indian paper currency is also in general use.[1] Besides the rupee the Persian *rial*[2]; (about $0.29), the Saudi Arabian *riyal*,[3] the Maria Theresa Thaler, (about $.45), and the Turkish pound, or *lira*, (about $3.60), are also in limited use.

STAMPS

●205 Up to 1947, the stamps of Bahrein were the old stamps of British India, with the word "Bahrain" over-printed across in black ink.[4] However, since the division of Indian colony into Dominions of India and Pakistan, the stamps used in Bahrein are those of United Kingdom with the word "BAHRAIN" and values in rupees over-printed in black ink. The Sheikdom has adhered to the International Postal Union and its membership in that organization is the only international agreement signed by Bahrein.

[648]

1. One hundred thousand rupees is called a *lakh*, and is written Rs. 1,00,000.
2. The Persian rial is fixed by the law of 1932 at a value of 0.07322383 grammes of gold.
3. The Saudi Arabian riyal was declared in 1940 to be equivalent to the Indian rupee.
4. The British and American differ in spelling the name of the island. Throughout the book we have followed the American use.